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Docket No. 54805/JPW/GJG/JBC

1632  
1636

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: Howard J. Worman and Naoto Mamiya

Serial No.: 09/407,430

Examiner: Q. Nguyen

Filed : September 29, 1999

Group Art Unit: 1632

For : HCV E2 PROTEIN BINDING AGENTS FOR TREATMENT OF  
HEPATITIS C VIRUS INFECTION

1185 Avenue Of The Americas  
New York, New York 10036  
October 23, 2003

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO SEPTEMBER 23, 2003 COMMUNICATION**

This Amendment is in response to a September 23, 2003 Communication issued by the U.S. Patent Office alleging that applicants Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed March 21, 2003 is not fully responsive to the December 23, 2002 final Office Action because the most recently added claims 79-100 are directed to a non-elected invention involving a method of inhibiting the attachment of hepatitis C virus onto a cell or of preventing the infection of a cell by a hepatitis C virus, which comprises contacting the cell with an effective amount of a compound which inhibits the binding of hepatitis C virus envelope E2 protein to a cellular protein associated with hepatitis C virus attachment onto cells identified by the recited steps, where virtually nothing is known about the structural or chemical features of the compound. A response to the September 23, 2003

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Communication is due October 23, 2003. Accordingly, this  
Amendment is being timely filed.